

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Response, Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. It is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 4-6 and 11-13 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jafarkhani et al. (U.S. Patent 6,125,149) in view of Zandi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,195,465).

Regarding the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 7 under §103(a), the claims have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of objected to Claims 4 and 11, respectively. Claims 4 and 11 are cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 5 and 6, and 12 and 13 have been amended to depend on Claims 1 and 7, respectively. Based on at least the foregoing amendments withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1 and 7 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2, 3 and 8-10, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 3 and 8-10 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12 and 13, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No. 33,494
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484
Fax: (516) 228-8516
PJF/MJM/dr